

# Deaths

There were 24,968 resident deaths recorded in Kansas during 2002, an increase of 1.5 percent from the 2001 total of 24,590. ([Table 30](#))

Elk, Republic and Greenwood counties had the highest five-year (1998-2002) county death rates of 18.4, 18.3, and 17.0 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. Riley, Douglas, and Finney counties had the lowest five-year death rates of 4.9, 5.4, and 5.4 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. ([Table 30](#), [Figure 26](#))

Belleville, Eureka, and Herrington had the highest five-year city death rates (1998-2002) of 28.7, 22.3, and 20.2 respectively. Olathe, Lawrence, and Shawnee experienced the lowest five-year city death rates of 4.6, 4.8, and 5.3 respectively. ([Table 31](#))

The Kansas death rate in 2002 was 9.2 deaths per 1,000 population, which was 9.5 percent higher than the estimated U.S. rate of 8.4 deaths per 1,000 population. ([Figure 27](#))

Of all fetal deaths in 2002, 67.1 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period, 19.9 percent were attributed to symptoms, signs and abnormal findings and 13.0 percent to congenital anomalies. ([Table 32](#))

Examining the components that constitute perinatal period III mortality, the numbers of fetal deaths and hebdomadal deaths declined 61.1 percent and 62.2 percent respectively from 1972 to 2002. Caution should be used in interpreting these decreases due to the relatively small number of occurrences. In 2002, there were 301 perinatal period III deaths, representing a death rate of 7.6 deaths per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths. This rate has decreased 67.5 percent from the 1972 rate of 23.4. ([Tables 33](#) and [34](#), [Figure 28](#))

A total of 282 infant deaths occurred to Kansas residents in 2002. The overall infant death rate for 2002 was 7.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. For comparison, the 2002 rate (7.2) represents a decrease of 58.1 percent from the rate of 17.2 in 1972. The white infant death rate was 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2002, a decrease of 60.6 percent from the rate of 16.5 in 1972. The black infant death rate in 2002 was 15.3, a decrease of 39.3 percent from the rate of 25.2 in 1972. ([Figure 29](#), [Tables 35](#) and [36](#))

During the five-year period, 1998-2002, the infant death rate for Kansas was 7.1. Elk county had the highest infant death rate (20.0) during this time period. Of those counties reporting infant deaths, Coffey county had the lowest rate (2.0). Eighteen counties had no infant deaths. ([Table 36](#))

Of all infant deaths in 2002, 48.2 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period, 22.3 percent were attributed to congenital anomalies, 16.3 percent to sudden infant death syndrome and 13.2 percent to all other causes. ([Table 37](#))

## Deaths (Cont.)

For each year from 1991 to 2002 there were five or fewer maternal deaths among Kansas residents. The maternal death rate for Kansas in 2002 was 0.5 deaths per 10,000 live births, a 16.7 percent decrease from the 1972 rate of 0.6. ([Figure 31](#))

The Kansas age-adjusted death rate per 1,000 standard U.S. 2000 population was consistently below that of the U.S. from 1993-2000. ([Table 40](#), [Figure 32](#))

The state's 2002 age-adjusted death rate for males (10.1) was 40.3 percent higher than the rate of 7.2 for females. ([Table 40](#))

The average age at death of Kansas residents in 2002 was 74.4 years, a 1.8 percent increase from the average age at death of 73.1 years in 1992. ([Table 41](#))

The average age at death for the white population in 2002 was 75.1 years, eleven years older than that of the black population, whose average age at death was 64.1 years. ([Table 42](#))

The two leading causes of death in Kansas in 2002, heart disease and malignant neoplasms, had average ages at death of 79.2 and 71.6 years respectively. Atherosclerosis, with an average age at death of 86.7 years, had the highest average age at death of any of the leading causes of death. ([Table 45](#))

The average age at death for male unintentional injury victims for 1992 and 2002 was 43.8 and 45.5 respectively, while for females the average age was 53.8 and 57.5 years respectively. For this time period, the average age at death increased for female unintentional injury victims 6.9 percent while for male unintentional injury victims it increased 3.9 percent. ([Table 45](#))

The cause-specific death rate for Alzheimer's Disease in Kansas was 27.7 deaths per 100,000 population in 2002. The rate for females (38.0) was more than twice as high as the rate for males (17.1). ([Table 45](#))

The cancer death rate for 2002 was 196.8 deaths per 100,000 population, 0.8 percent lower than the rate of 198.4 in 1992. ([Tables 45](#) and [46](#))

In 2002, the unintentional injury death rate was 41.4 deaths per 100,000 population, 22.1 percent higher than the rate of 33.9 in 1992. ([Tables 45](#) and [46](#))

The age-adjusted death rate for the leading cause of death, heart disease, was 219.2, and for cancer, the second leading cause of death, the age-adjusted death rate was 187.5 per 100,000 standard U.S. 2000 population. Together, these two causes accounted for almost 50 percent of all Kansas resident deaths. ([Table 46](#))

## Deaths (Cont.)

Heart disease reached a high of 393.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 1973 and gradually declined to 244.5 deaths per 100,000 population in 2002. Conversely, cancer rates steadily increased from 140.6 to 207.1 deaths per 100,000 population from 1956 to 1996, but have declined since 1996, to 196.8 in 2002. ([Figure 33](#))

In 2002, Kansans died from cerebrovascular disease at slightly more than half the rate of forty years ago, with the death rates for this disease going from 127.7 in 1962 to 67.7 in 2002. The death rate for unintentional injury also declined, going from 60.8 in 1962 to 41.4 in 2002, a 31.9 percent decrease. ([Figure 33](#))

In 2002, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for Kansas residents 1-44 years of age. ([Figure 34](#))

In 2002, cancer of the respiratory and intrathoracic organs, digestive organs and breast were the leading causes of cancer deaths in women. ([Table 48](#))

The dominant occupations for deaths due to unintentional injuries, suicides and homicides were operators, fabricators and laborers. ([Table 52](#))

Mortality in Kansas was responsible for 198,887 years of potential life lost in 2002. Cancer was the second leading cause of death in Kansas, but accounted for the most years of potential life lost (44,266). Unintentional injuries represented nearly two times the years of potential life lost among men (21,659 years) compared to women (10,314 years). ([Table 54](#), [Figure 35](#))